Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR THE

Rural District Council of Stoke-upon-Trent,

(Public Health Act, 1875, and Local Government Act, 1894.)

FOR THE YEAR, 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit for your consideration, my Aunual Report on the Sanitary condition of the Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent, with the mortality statistics for the last year ending December 31st, 1902.

The area is a very wide, scattered one, containing 4938 acres, consisting of several villages:—Bucknall, Botteslow, Great Eaves, Little Eaves, Bagnall and Stockton Brook.

The census was taken in March, 1901, when the population had decreased by 10, the number enumerated was 4808, as there has not been any material increase in the number of new houses erected, my figures are based on the last census.

The past year has been a very remarkable one as regards sickness, every Urban District has had epidemics prevalent at different periods, and a great amount of serious disease, and every Rural District has been free from illness of a serious type.

There are 926 houses in the Rural District, so that there are 5·1 persons in each habitable building.

The "Infectous Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890," was adopted in the Rural District in 1892, sections 4 to 9, both inclusive, 13 and 14, and 16 to 20, both inclusive, and Part III, Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, as far as it is made applicable by section 30 to the Rural Sanitary District.

There have been 34 notifications received during the year, 4 enteric fever, 4 erysipelas, 24 diphtheria, one puerperal fever, and one case of smallpox.

The diphtheria cases were most of a very mild type and well isolated at home, one was too ill to be removed to the hospital, two cases were removed where there was not strict precautions carried out to prevent the spread of the disease, two cases could be distinctly traced to choked drains adjoining the houses.

Four quarters of beef had been seized at Armshead (in a stable) being prepared for sale, it was condemned by a Justice of Peace, and the two butchers were summoned before the Magistrates and sent to prison for a month each.

A weekly return of the notifications and sicknesses has been sent to the County Medical Officer of Health, at each meeting of the Council, a monthly report of work done has been presented, and a quarterly report has been submitted of the mortality statistics.

The COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS and DAIRIES have been regularly inspected. This has occupied much time and care. They have always been found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are eight licensed places in the Sanitary district, all have been whitewashed regularly, and are kept in a cleanly, sanitary condition.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are only two bakehouses in the district.

The NIGHT SOIL and ASHES are removed by Contract and the work has been fairly done, and there have not been so many complaints as usual.

The Public Wells have been regularly inspected, and there has been a good supply of potable water. A larger trough is desirable at Jackhay Lane, as when one person has emptied it the next comer has to wait such a long time for it to be refilled.

I have made four analyses of water, one from the Washerwall Well, one from the Sheepwash Well, and two from the Moor Side Well, all of which have been found satisfactory.

Births.—During the year ending December 31st, 1902, there were registered 168 births, 167 born at Washerwall, Bucknall and Bagnall, 85 males, 82 females, and one at Botteslow, of these, 8 were born out of wedlock, 5 male and 3 females, at an annual rate of increase 34·9 per 1000 in the estimated population, 3 per 1000 lower than usual, the average for the last 10 years being 180 per annum at a rate of 37·2 per 1000.

Deaths.—The Registrars' returns show that there were 115 deaths during the year 1902, at an annual rate of mortality of 23·9 per 1000, but in order to estimate the correct death rate of the Rural District, it is necessary to eliminate from these figures the deaths that have taken place at the Hospital at Bucknall, of Joint Hospital Board which were 52, brought from the neighbouring towns, if so, there were only 63 deaths recorded belonging to the Rural District of Stoke-on-Trent, and the rate of mortality was really only 13·1. The average number of deaths for the last 10 years has been 94, at a rate of 20 per 1000.

Of the deaths that occured at the Joint Hospital 44 cases were removed from the Borough of Hanley, 6 from Stoke, one from Fenton, one from Cobridge, one from Tunstall.

The deaths of children under three months were 14, under one year 19, under five years 37, from five to 15, 31.

There were two deaths from enteric fever in High Street, Bucknall, and one case supposed to be caused by drinking impure water out of a horse trough.

Three cases of suicide from drowning.

Appended is the Sanitary Inspector's Report from which it will be seen that each house where infectious disease has existed was thoroughly disinfected after patients recovery.

Appended is also a table by which the details of all statistical information is given.

JOHN SWIFT WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health

Inspector's Report for Year ending December 31st, 1902.

Houses and Premises Inspected	940
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	24
Notices served for Sanitary Amendment	47
Nuisances Abated by Verbal Notice	40
Manure Heaps Removed	4
Registered Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected every Quarter ...	57
Slaughter-houses Inspected every Quarter	9
Public Wells Inspected every Month	8
Bakehouses Inspected every Month	2
Whitewash Brushes let out	206
Patients removed to Joint Hospital suffering from Diphtheria ...	2
Animals improperly kept	10

GILBERT McHARG,

Sanitary Inspector.

Rural Sanitary District of Stoke-upon-Trent.

BIRTHS in the Rural District of STOKE-UPON-TRENT during the year 1902.

	Born in Wedlock		Born out of Wedlock	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Registered in Botteslow	...	1	...	...
Registered in Washerwall, Bucknall and Bagnall	80	79	5	3

Total number of Births Registered 168

DEATHS Registered from all Causes during the Year 1902.

	AGES.												
	Under 3 Months	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and upwards	TOTALS
I. Specific Febrile or Zymotic Diseases	...	2	31	19	4	...	...	1	1	..	...	...	58
II. Constitutional Diseases ..	1	1	..	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	6
III. Developmental Diseases ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	2	2	8
IV. Local Diseases	8	11	5	2	2	...	3	4	1	2	3	...	33
V. Deaths from Violence ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	1	1	...	...	3
VI. Deaths from Ill-defined and not Specified Causes ...	3	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	..	7
TOTALS	14	19	37	21	6	2	5	8	5	5	5	2	115
I.—Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases.													
Measles	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	1	3	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	28	15	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	45
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	1
II.—Constitutional Diseases.													
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	..	..	..	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
III.—Developmental Diseases.													
Premature Birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	2
Old Age	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	6
IV.—Local Diseases.													
Apoplexy, Softening of Brain, Hemiplegia, Brain Paralysis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Epilepsy	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	5	6	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Valvular Diseases of Heart ...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	8
Aneurism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1
Croup...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	4
Pneumonia	2	2	..	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	6
Dentition	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	..	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Peritonitis	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	1
Bright's Disease, Albuminuria ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Diseases of the Urinary System	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
V.—Deaths from Violence.													
Drowning	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
VI.—Deaths from Ill-defined and not Specified Causes.													
Debility, Atrophy, Inanition ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Causes not Specified or Ill-defined	..	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	4

SUMMARY OF TABLE III.

	No. of Deaths
I.—Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases.	
1. Miasmatic Diseases	57
2. Septic	1
II.—Constitutional Diseases	6
III.—Developmental Diseases	8
IV.—Local Diseases.	
1. Diseases of Nervous System	8
2. Diseases of Circulatory System ...	9
Carried forward	89

	No. of Deaths
Brought forward	89
IV.—Local Diseases—continued.	
3. Diseases of Respiratory System ...	11
4. Diseases of Digestive System	3
5. Diseases of Urinary System	2
V.—Violence.	
Suicide	3
VI.—Ill-defined and not Specified Causes	7
TOTAL	115

Medical Officer's Annual Report

OF THE

Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent,

For the Year 1902.

Vyse & Hill, Printers, Church Street, Stoke.